

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A process for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample of an egg which process comprises:

(i) contacting the sample with a test composition the results of which test are based on microbial growth suitable for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue ~~in the sample~~;

(ii) heating the contacted sample and test composition for a sufficient time interval to ~~inactivating~~ inactivate any ~~natural-inhibiting~~ compound that inhibits microbial growth present in the sample; and

(iii) incubating the contacted sample and test composition, to determine whether microbial growth occurs,

whereby the absence of microbial growth indicates the presence of at least one antimicrobial residue, and the presence of microbial growth indicates the absence of any antimicrobial residue.

2. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 70°C to 100°C.

3. (previously presented): A process according to claim 2, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 75°C to 85°C.

4. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein said heating is from 2 to 20 minutes.

5. (previously presented): A process according to claim 4, wherein said heating is from 10 to 15 minutes.

6. (currently amended): A process according to claim 1 wherein the test comprises a test microorganism, nutrients and one or more indicators of microbial growth present in an agar medium.

7-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended): The process of claim 1, wherein said natural ~~inhibiting~~ compound inhibiting microbial growth is lysozyme.

13. (new): The process of claim 1, wherein the sample is homogenized prior to step (i).